

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 1 through 34 are pending in the application, that claims 1-7 and 9-34 are rejected, and that claim 8 is objected to.

Claim Objections

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner has objected to claim 1 for various informalities. Applicant has amended claim 1 in accordance with the Examiner's requirements. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the objection to claim 1.

Claim Rejections, 35 U.S.C. §§102 and 103

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner again rejected claims 1-5, 9-11, 23, 25-27, 30-32, and 34 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,847,755 to Morrison.

On page 8 of the Office Action, the Examiner has again rejected claims 6-7, 24, 28-29, and 33 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Morrison. On page 12 of the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 12-18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Morrison in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,289,442 to Asato. On page 14 of the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 19-21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Morrison in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,055,021 to Kadambi. Finally, on page 15 of the Office

Action, the Examiner has rejected claim 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morrison in view of Kadambi and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,193,180 to Hastings.

Allowable Subject Matter

On page 16 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claim 8 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant thanks the Examiner for this indication of allowable subject matter. Applicant has amended the claims in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion, and has additionally added new claim 35, which incorporates the limitations of claim 8 into claim 1. Further amendments have been made to assure proper claim dependency. Applicant submits that the claims, as currently amended, patentably define over the prior art.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicant respectfully requests entry of the amendments, favorable reconsideration of the application, withdrawal of all rejections and objections and that claims 1 and 9 - 35 be allowed at an early date and the patent allowed to issue.

PATENT
Application No. 10/518,974

Docket No. 356884.0002
Page 10

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 50-4364.

Respectfully submitted

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Date

/Mark D. Simpson/
Mark D. Simpson, Esquire
Registration No. 32,942

SAUL EWING LLP
Centre Square West
1500 Market Street, 38th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102-2189
Telephone: 215 972 7880
Facsimile: 215 972 4169
Email: MSimpson@saul.com